Funds and Incentives for Silk Industry in Assam

51. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds made a available to develop silk industry in Assam through Central Silk Board.

(b) the steps taken by the Board to market Assam silk;

(c) the incentives given to the silk industry in Assam; and

(d) the quantum of export of Assam silk, indicating the status of Assam silk in international market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The allocation of funds to Assam by the Central Silk Board (CSB) during VIIIth and IXth Plan period is as follows:

Rs. in crores

VIIIth Plan	IXth Plan		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (upto September)
25.04	3.27	4.54	2.02

(b) and (c) In order to supplement efforts of the Starte Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These includes schemes for extension of R & D, training, infrastructural and extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units and implementation of certain developmental/incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk. Besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericulture projects like World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project, Action Plan for seven States of North Eastern region etc., in association/ collaboration with the States.

(d) Statewise statistics of textile exports including silk is not maintained by Government. Presently the demand for Assam silk is more in the domestic market.

Proposed Mega Power Policy

*52. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Miniter of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the proposed Mega Power Policy recently formulated by Government;

(b) whether Government propose to involve the Reserve Bank of India in implementation of the proposed policy;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has expressed its inability to involve itself in the matter; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Under the revised policy on development of mega power projects announced in November, 1998, certain porject sites, both in the Public as well as private sector have been identified as mega power projects which would cater to the power needs of more than one state. The Standing Independent Group constituted by the Government would initially be the apex body to oversee implementation of the mega projects in the private sector. The principles of competitive bidding would be adhered to as far as possible, while obtaining tariff offers for private sector projects. These projects are being given certain concessions and are being linked to reforms. It is expected that these projects would result in low tariffs and would also help in catalysing reforms and accelerating the establishment of systems that would transfer power across states and regions.

As per the revised poliy, a Power Trading Corporation (PTC) has already been established with majority equity participation by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), along with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Power Finance Corporation(PFC). Concerned State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and financial institutions could also be involved as per requirement. PTC would purchase power from the identified private projects and sell it to the identified State Electricity Boards.